

BOOK XIV

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania

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CHURCH OF THE ADVENT, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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The Church of the Advent is located in an area that has been condemned by the Redevelopment Authority.

THE CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD

Philadelphia is divided into tracts for the purposes of the United States Census. The Church of the Advent is located in Census Tract 19-B. This tract, together with four contiguous tracts, have been arbitrarily assigned as the parish area. The following table gives the total population of these tracts, the number of Episcopalians found in the tracts, and the percentage of the population that is Episcopal in these various tracts.

CENSUS TRACT OR ZONE	TOTAL POP.	TOTAL EPIS.	% OF POP. EPIS.	TOTAL PARISH MEMB.	% EPIS. MEMB.	% PARISH MEMB.
19-B	9,250	99	1.1			
19-A	7,938	113	1.4			
19-D	6,631	71	1.1			
37-F	6,842	12	0.2			
43-E	10,887	216	2.0			
TOTAL	41,548	511	1.2			

The total number of persons connected with the Church of the Advent, as indicated by their membership map, is 26. It should be noted that one other Episcopal Church is located in the same census tract with the Church of the Advent and there are two additional Episcopal churches in an

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adjoining tract. While the percentage of the Episcopal population in any one of the tracts is relatively low, the total number of Episcopalians in the arbitrarily assigned parish area is over 500.

The following table gives information concerning the changes in population between 1950 and 1960, the percentage of the population 14 years of age and under and 65 years of age and over, and the median age for men and women in the area.

CENSUS TRACT OR ZONE	POPULATION		%	%		MED.	
	1950	1960		14 & UNDER	65 & OVER	AGE M	F
19-B	10,554	9,250	-12.4	30.0	11.2	29.9	32.1
19-A	NA	7,938	-	28.0	10.8	30.7	31.0
19-D	NA	6,631	-	29.9	10.0	28.1	31.6
37-F	NA	6,842		34.7	8.2	27.9	28.2
43-E	NA	10,887		24.0	14.6	35.4	39.4
TOTAL		41,548					

Philadelphia decreased in population by 3.3% between 1950 and 1960. The percentage of the population 14 years of age and under in 1960 was 26.5%, and the percentage 65 years of age and over was 10.4%. The median age for men in Philadelphia was 32.1% and for women 34.6%. It is probably true that the arbitrarily assigned parish area has had a considerable decrease in population between 1950 and 1960, but indications of this decrease are obtainable only for Census Tract 19-B. Census Tract 43-E displayed a considerably higher age level in the population than that for Philadelphia as a whole or the remaining census tracts in the arbitrarily assigned parish area.

The following table gives information concerning the education of adults 25 years of age and older in

the arbitrarily assigned parish area.

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CENSUS TRACT OR ZONE	EDUCATION OF ADULTS 25 YRS. OF AGE & OVER			
	% H.S. GRAD.	% COLLEGE 1-3 YRS.	% COLLEGE GRAD.	MED. ED.
19-B	11.3	1.8	1.0	8.5
19-A	7.5	1.7	2.5	8.5
19-D	10.6	1.9	1.4	8.5
37-F	15.7	2.5	0.9	8.7
43-E	12.4	3.0	0.9	8.7

The median education for persons 25 years of age and older in Philadelphia is 9.6 years. Also in the city 20% of the population are high school graduates, an additional 5.1% have had from one to three years of college, and 5.1% are college graduates. The median education level in the arbitrarily assigned parish area is extremely low when compared to Philadelphia as a whole and to other counties in the diocese.

The following table gives information concerning the changes in the non-white population between 1950 and 1960, the percent of the population non-white, and the number and percentage of the persons in the arbitrarily assigned parish area who are of Puerto Rican descent.

CENSUS TRACT OR ZONE	NON-WHITE POPULATION		%	%	PUERTO RICAN
	1950	1960	CHANGE	NON-WHITE	
19-B	160	1,482	826.3	16.0	6.4
19-A	NA	387	-	4.9	2.5
19-D	NA	792	-	11.9	7.1
37-F	NA	5,675	-	85.6	1.5
43-E	NA	206	-	1.9	0.6
		8,542	-	20.6	3.4

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The Puerto Rican population of Philadelphia is 0.7%. As the table indicates, there is some concentration of Puerto Ricans in the parish area. Census Tract 19-B illustrates a phenomenon which is common to the remaining census tracts; that is, a considerable increase in the non-white population in the census tracts. The following table gives the percentage of the population five years of age and older in 1960 which has the same residence as in 1955.

CENSUS TRACT OR ZONE	RESIDENCE 1960
	SAME AS 1955 PERCENT
19-B	56.2
19-A	54.9
19-D	58.4
37-F	52.9
43-E	67.4

The percentage of the population five years of age and older who had the same residence in 1960 as they had in 1955 was 60.0%. The differences between the residence pattern for Philadelphia as a whole and these census tracts is negligible. This, however, redevelopment is now taking place, a future census will show these percentage to be considerably lower than what is indicated here.

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THE CHURCH PROGRAM

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No Church Self-Study Form was submitted with the materials from the Church of the Advent in Philadelphia.

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REPORTED MEMBERSHIP FROM MAPS

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The Church of the Advent submitted no membership map showing the distribution of the 26 members listed as making up the congregation.

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REPORTED MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL DATA FROM JOURNALS

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Between 1950 and 1960 the baptized membership declined in the Church of the Advent by 56.2%, the communicant strength by 43.9%, and the church school by 73.3%. In 1963, the communicant strength had decreased to 17 persons. Between 1961 and 1963 there were only two baptisms in the church and no confirmations.

The total reported expenditures between 1961 and 1963 inclusive for the Church of the Advent were \$4,257.00, of which \$550.00, or 12.9%, went for purposes outside the parish. The expenditures per communicant amounted to \$50.08 per communicant per year and the extra-parochial expenditures amounted to \$6.47. In the planning section known as Lower North Philadelphia, the percentage of the total reported expenditures for Episcopal churches going for purposes outside the parish amounted to 7.5%, in Philadelphia the percentage was 11.3% and in the Diocese of Pennsylvania as a whole the percentage was 14.2%.

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VITAL STATISTICS

PARISH ADVENT

TOWN PHILADELPHIA

COUNTY PHILADELPHIA

DIOCESE PENNSYLVANIA

	1940	1945	1950	1955	1960	1961	1962	1963
Baptized Members	* 384	146	210	167	92	42	26	** 17
Communicants	384	124	123	132	69	42	26	17
Church School	54	9	15	7	4	5	0	-
Baptisms	7	7	4	2	1	1	1	-
Percentage of Communicants	1.8	5.6	3.3	1.5	1.4	2.4	3.8	-
Confirmations	-	4	3	20	-	-	-	-
Percentage of Communicants	-	3.2	2.4	15.2	-	-	-	-
Parochial Expenditures 1	2,211	3,221	2,093	2,395	3,934	1,225	1,040	1,121
Special Par. Expenditures 2	528	-	158	127	-	56	265	-
Extra-parochial Expenditures 3	90	157	125	200	250	250	200	100
Total Reported Expenditures	2,829	3,378	2,376	2,722	4,184	1,531	1,505	1,221
Expenditures per Communicant	7.38	27.24	19.32	20.62	60.64	36.45	57.88	71.82
Extra-parochial Expenditures per Communicant	0.23	1.27	1.02	1.52	3.62	5.95	7.69	5.88

* GDRFS ESTIMATE (212 REPORTED) ** CDRFS ESTIMATE (16 REPORTED)

- 1 Includes clergy salary, current expense, pension premium, and Diocesan assessment.
- 2 Special parish purposes, including capital expenditures.
- 3 Includes Church's Program, special outside.

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DATA ON THE CONGREGATION

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The census data submitted by the Church of the Advent lists only 14 persons, none of whom is under 20 years of age. Nine of the 14 persons listed are over 65 years of age.

In reporting on the length of membership in this congregation, one-half of the congregation has belonged to this church for more than 40 years. No person in the congregation has a membership of less than 10 years and five persons have a membership between 30 and 40 years.

In reporting on the background of the membership of this congregation, 13 persons have a Russian or Slavic background, and one person has a Southern European background. The census tends to indicate that there are no Negroes or Spanish Americans in the congregation, although this section of Philadelphia is heavily populated by both these two groups.

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DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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At the present time, the Church of the Advent is all but defunct. The area in which the church is located is part of the re-development area of Philadelphia. Future land use is still in doubt.

At the time of this Study, the priest-in-charge of this church had to give the bulk of his attention to two other congregations in the process of a merger. Such a commitment, quite naturally, would take priority.

It is therefore recommended that the Church of the Advent come under direct diocesan control. It is further recommended that the archdeacon of the diocese be appointed vicar of the mission. With the diocese being chiefly responsible, the future of the church can be examined fruitfully. Among the questions that should be asked are: "Is it possible for the church to minister to this changing neighborhood as it apparently does not do at the present time?" "What will be the role of the church if it remains in place after the area is re-developed?" "Would it be possible for this church to serve as one of the area offices for the Episcopal community services?" These and other questions can be considered better on the diocesan level, rather than under the present arrangement.